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SUBJECT: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT
TO PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA

REF: STATE 118942

The following is an informal translation of congratulatory letter from Portuguese President Cavaco Silva to President-elect Obama. Original letter was sent to the Portuguese Embassy in Washington for delivery. We received a courtesy copy of original text which will be transmitted by fax to EUR/WE.

Begin text:

Lisbon, November 04, 2008

The Honorable
Barack Obama
The President-elect
Washington

Dear Mr. President-elect,

On the occasion of your election as President of the United States of America I would like to transmit, in my name and in the name of the Portuguese people, warmest congratulations as well as sincere wishes for success in serving the high office for which the American people have so clearly chosen you.

I am confident that during your term in office the ties of friendship that bind Portugal and the United States of America, and the close cooperation that symbolizes our bilateral relations in many different areas, will find new opportunities for reinforcement and growth. In this context, allow me also to underscore the role of the large Portuguese and Portuguese-descendent community residing in the United States, an important link between our two nations.

I am certain that your actions will constitute a vital contribution to the necessary coordination of efforts at the international level imposed by the challenges that the world is facing. Only in this way can we overcome the problems with which we are confronted, and take advantage of the opportunities offered to us.

Allow me, Mr. President-elect, to congratulate you once again and to convey my sincere wishes for your personal happiness and for the prosperity and progress of the good people of the United States of America.

With my best regards,

/s/

Anibal Cavaco Silva
President of the Portuguese Republic

End of text.

STEPHENSON